



C H A P. VIII.

Relating principally to Joseph's Relations.

THOUGH in our last we extolled Joseph's conduct, when raised to such a station of power and riches, yet some have pointed out what may be esteemed great defects, that attended so great

great a character. These, however, we shall pass over, because our thoughts of his character at so great a distance of time from the age in which he lived, must be drawn from his general conduct, and not from any single actions. And, indeed, if we were never allowed to conceive a man deserving of attention, without he was entirely free from fault or blame in every particular, we should never be able to present you with a conduct worthy of imitation. Therefore we must necessarily select the virtues of the brightest characters, from their vices, before we may universally follow them. Perfection shines like the sun in its meridian strength, but the best of men have only twinkled like glow worms: therefore David said, "I have seen an end of all perfection;" which Dr. Watts has thus beautifully put into verse:

I've seen an end of what we call
Perfection here below,

B 6

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